

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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## Levies Checkpost Set on Fire in Kohlu's Mawand Area

**Yousaf Marri:**  
KOHLU: Unknown assailants set fire to the Saeedabad Levies checkpost in the Manjhara area of Mawand Tehsil, Kohlu, late at night.



The fire completely destroyed the checkpost, reducing all equipment and tents to ashes.

### Investigation Underway

Following the incident, Levies officials launched an immediate investigation to trace the attackers and determine the motive behind the attack.

According to authorities, further details will be shared as the investigation progresses.

## Punjab to showcase its tourism potential to world: CM Maryam

LAHORE (ANI): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has vowed to highlight Punjab's scenic beauty on the global stage.

In her message on Global Tourism Resilience Day, she stated that Punjab is a land of deserts, mountain ranges, lakes, and rivers, with immense tourism potential yet to be fully explored.

She emphasized that sustainable initiatives are being implemented to boost tourism, which is essential for economic growth, local culture, and international relations. Governor Mandokhai described the Murree Glass Train Project as a game-changer for tourism, adding that the Murree Master Plan is being implemented to transform it into a world-class tourist destination. She also highlighted that key roads are being upgraded to ensure safe and comfortable travel for visitors.

Additionally, a five-star hotel will be built in Kartarpur to promote religious tourism, and new tourist destinations will be introduced across the province.

## Senate passes bill to increase salaries and perks for parliamentarians

**NEWS DESK:** The Senate has approved the Parliamentarians' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2025, which will increase the salaries and perks of lawmakers.

The bill, introduced by Senator Danesh Kumar, was passed unanimously, though Deputy Chairman Syed Ali Khan ordered the names of dissenting members to be recorded, signalling the contentious nature of the decision.

Law Minister Azam Nazer Tarar defended the salary hike, urging lawmakers to avoid politicising the issue. He suggested that members unwilling to accept the raise should submit a

## Governor Balochistan Launches "Center for Excellence in Renewable Energy"

Syed Ali Shah, News Desk:



**QUETTA:** Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhai has inaugurated the "Balochistan Center for Excellence in Renewable Energy", marking a significant milestone in the province's journey towards sustainable energy solutions. This initiative, a remarkable partnership between Pakistan and Germany, reflects their shared commitment to socio-economic development and clean energy solutions in Balochistan.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Governor Mandokhai highlighted the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) as a key institution with outreach across almost every district of the province. He commended BRSP's team for their relentless efforts in driving development and promoting renewable energy.

### Key Dignitaries Attend the Launch

The ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including:

- Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Bazaqir (Vice-Chancellor, University of Balochistan)
- Dr. Rubina Mushtaq (Vice-Chancellor, Women University)
- Nasrullah Jan (Accountant General, Balochistan)
- Sahibzada Najeemullah (Additional Secretary, Energy Department)
- Malik Anwar Saleem Kasi (Chairman, BRSP)
- Dr. Tahir Rasheed (CEO, BRSP)
- Nasrullah Khan Bareech (Center for Peace and Development)

Religious scholars, minority representatives, and a large number of attendees from various fields were also present.

### A New Chapter in Renewable Energy for Balochistan

Governor Mandokhai emphasized that the Center for Excellence will accelerate

Balochistan's transition towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly future. The initiative, made possible through collaboration between BRSP, Petrop Foundation, and BUTEMS University, aims to address energy challenges and promote clean energy adoption.

He acknowledged Germany's unwavering support for Balochistan's socio-economic development, particularly in empowering youth, creating job opportunities, and advancing renewable energy technologies.

The governor assured full support from the Balochistan government, recognizing energy conservation as a key driver of economic growth. He pledged to facilitate and promote clean energy projects for a sustainable future. At the end of the ceremony, Governor Mandokhai distributed commemorative shields among distinguished guests, experts, and event organizers.

## Tessori asks CM to form commission on rising Karachi accidents

**NEWS DESK:** Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has urged Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to establish a high-level commission to investigate the rising number of traffic accidents and fatalities in Karachi.

In a letter to the chief minister, Tessori highlighted concerns over reckless driving, particularly by heavy vehicle operators such as dumpers, trailers, and water tankers. He noted a sharp increase in traffic violations and accidents in recent months, which has caused significant public anxiety.

The proposed commission, to be led by the Chief Secretary, would examine the root causes of these incidents and hold those responsible accountable, Tessori stated.

He emphasized the need for a comprehensive strategy to prevent further tragedies and ensure public safety.

According to the Chhipa Welfare Association, Karachi has recorded 107 traffic-related deaths in the first 45 days of 2025, including 78 men, 14 women, 11 children, and 4 girls. Additionally, 1,493 people were injured, comprising 1,290 men, 193 women, 42 children, and 18 girls.

Previously, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori wrote a second letter to Sindh High Court (SHC) chief justice, urging immediate action on the rising number of traffic fatalities in Karachi.



In his letter, Tessori highlighted administrative negligence and legal violations as major causes of fatal accidents in the city.

The governor expressed concern over a recent incident where four citizens lost their lives in a single day.

He pointed out that despite a court order restricting heavy traffic from entering the city between 7 am and 11 pm, complaints of non-compliance continue to rise. Governor Tessori requested the High Court to ensure strict implementation of its orders to prevent further tragedies.

Previously, Karachi Division Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi announced on Friday a complete ban on heavy traffic in the city during daytime for the next two months.

The ban, effective from February 14 to April 13, 2025, restricts the movement of dumpers carrying construction materials, mixture machines, and other heavy traffic within city limits from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

## Balochistan Launches Air Ambulance Service to Strengthen Emergency Healthcare

Staff Reporter:

**QUETTA:** The Government of Balochistan has officially launched its Air Ambulance service, a long-awaited initiative aimed at improving emergency medical response in the province.

This project, promised by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, is set to provide faster and more efficient medical transport, particularly in remote areas.

### A Skilled Team to Operate the Service

Government spokesperson Shahid Rind confirmed that a

cently graduated trainee pilots, giving them an opportunity to gain essential flight hours required for their commercial licenses.

### A Historic First: Female Pilot Joins the Team

For the first time, a female pilot from Gilgit-Baltistan has been included in the air ambulance team, marking a significant step towards gender inclusion in aviation.

Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti personally directed this appoint-



seven-member crew has been appointed to run the air ambulance, ensuring swift medical assistance in critical situations.

### Two-Year Pilot Program for Better Evaluation

The service will initially operate as a two-year pilot project, allowing authorities to assess its effectiveness and expand it based on real-time needs.

### Empowering Young Pilots

In a move to support Pakistan's growing aviation sector, the government has also recruited re-

emphasizing the government's commitment to equal opportunities.

### Overseen by Aviation Experts

The initiative is being supervised by Director General of the Aviation Department, Ali Azad, ensuring smooth operations and strict compliance with safety regulations.

This game-changing project is expected to save countless lives by providing immediate medical transport and emergency care, making healthcare more accessible for the people of Balochistan.

## Crackdown on Cheating: Examination Staff Suspended in Quetta

Qaseem Shah:

**QUETTA:** In a bid to curb cheating and malpractice during matriculation exams, the Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE), Mir Ejaz Azeem Baloch, and Controller of Examinations, Madam Abida Kakar, conducted surprise inspections at exam centres in Tameer-e-Nau College and Government High School Shafiq Ahmed Khan.

During the raid, several mobile phones, cheating materials, and duplicate candidates were caught.

Taking immediate action, the chairman suspended the examination staff at both centres.

### Strict Measures Against Cheating

The operation was carried out on the special directives of Provincial Education Minister Rahela Hameed Khan Durrani, who has emphasized strict measures to eliminate cheating in exams.

Chairman Mir Ejaz Azeem Baloch stated that Section 144 has been imposed across Balochistan to maintain the integrity of exams. Controller Madam Abida Kakar warned that unauthorized individuals found near exam centers would face legal action.

### Government's Commitment to Education Standards

The Balochistan government, led by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, has pledged to enhance educational standards by enforcing strict anti-cheating policies. Senior officials, including Chief Secretary Shaukel Oqdir Khan and Secretary Education Saleh Nasir, have issued clear directives to ensure fair and transparent examinations.

The crackdown highlights the government's commitment to educational reforms and sends a strong message against exam fraud.



## Crisis at Balochistan's Oldest University: Mismanagement, Protests, and Financial Woes

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## No one will be allowed to challenge writ of state: said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

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## Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Afridi reconstitutes SC's administrative committees

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## Editorial

### Editor: Asim Khan

# A Progressive Shift in Balochistan's Education System

#### Editorial:

The Education Department of Balochistan has taken a commendable step by replacing the terms "pass" and "fail" with "promoted" and "retained" on student result cards. This change, announced by District Education Officer (DEO) Quetta, Syed Nasir Shah, aims to address the psychological challenges students face due to traditional grading terminologies.

#### Transforming Education: A Step Toward Inclusivity

The words "fail" and "pass" often leave a lasting impact on students' mental health, leading to stress, anxiety, and loss of interest in studies. As DEO Syed Nasir Shah aptly stated, the revised terminology will "discourage students from losing interest in their studies" while fostering a more positive learning environment. By emphasizing improvement and growth, this initiative paves the way for a supportive education system that prioritizes mental well-being.

#### Broader Implications for Balochistan's Education Sector

This progressive approach extends to all districts of Balochistan. School principals, district education officers, and even the Higher Education Department should adopt this policy. A province-wide notification banning the use of "fail" and "pass" on result cards would ensure a uniform approach to reducing student anxiety and promoting academic resilience.

#### Encouraging Female Education

This change holds particular significance for improving female education. In many regions of Balochistan, academic failures often discourage girls from continuing their studies. A more empathetic grading system can boost female enrollment and retention rates, aligning with the broader goals of gender equality in education.

#### A Call to Action

Educators and parents have lauded this initiative as a step toward an inclusive and empathetic education system. To amplify its impact, the Higher Education Department should incorporate similar terminology reforms at the college and university levels. This shift can encourage students across all educational tiers without fear.

Balochistan's education system is evolving, and this bold step reflects a commitment to nurturing confident, motivated learners. By implementing this change province-wide, the government can inspire a generation of students to pursue education fearlessly, fostering a brighter future for Balochistan.

## Environmental activism

By Dr Intikhab Ulfat:

A few years ago, I stood among thousands of people at a climate march, holding a placard that read: "There is no Planet B. The energy was electrifying, the voices determined, and for the first time, I truly felt the weight of environmental activism. It is more than just protests or petitions—it is a call to protect our shared home.

Environmental activism is no longer an abstract movement led by scientists or policymakers; it has become deeply personal for millions worldwide. One of the most striking demonstrations took place on September 27, 2019, when approximately 100,000 people gathered at Vancouver City Hall, joining millions across the globe, to demand immediate action on climate change. It was Vancouver's largest protest in 35 years, proving that climate concerns are no longer confined to policy rooms—they are on the streets, in homes, and on the minds of ordinary people like us.

What if that motivation were to take a stand? Personal connection to nature plays a significant role. Growing up in Sweden, I spent summers near the Indus River, marveling at its vastness. But in recent years, scarcity and declining water levels and increasing pollution

made me realise how fragile our environment truly is. Studies confirm that those who feel connected to nature adopt sustainable behaviours—whether it's reducing waste, conserving energy, or advocating for policy changes. But environmental activism extends beyond personal habits; it is about pressing oneself as part of a larger movement.

Movements led by organisations like Greenpeace and 350.org have shown how activism can influence policies. We have seen governments tighten regulations on carbon emissions, phase out fossil fuels, and invest in renewable energy—all because public pressure left them no choice. However, there are still many hurdles. Governments and corporations often resist meaningful changes, prioritising short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability. When I see news reports about political parties reshaping national environmental policies, setting a global agenda for sustainability, Sweden's Green Party has been pivotal in pushing carbon neutrality and renewable energy goals, striving for a fossil fuel-

free future by 2045 through investments in hydroelectric and wind energy. In Germany, Alliance 90/The Greens has led the Energiewende (energy transition), promoting solar and wind power, which has resulted in strict climate regulations, carbon pricing, and green technology advancements. Similarly, New Zealand's Green Party champions biodiversity protection, eco-friendly urban planning, and plastic waste reduction. Australia, Canada and the UK are also witnessing growing green political movements. All that goes to underscore that environmental activism is not just about advocacy; it is, in fact, a political force, shaping policy, climate action, and economic transformation worldwide.

Closer to home, Pakistan's environmental movement is gaining momentum, but it still has a long way to go. With the country battling deforestation, pollution and climate-induced disasters, environmental activism is no longer an option—it is a necessity. Political parties have launched initiatives like Sindh's Mangrove Restoration Program and Punjab's Green Development Program, but their impact remains limited. The role of environmentalists and poor execution.

## Pursuing policies to strengthen the country

By Talat Masood:

Of the many labels or descriptions attributed to our country the one that stands out is that it is a crisis state.

Largely, this description may be apt, but so are most of the development countries. For it is inherent for a country in development stage to go through a period of turmoil and instability. But as this direction have witnessed over the years if the policies pursued by the leadership are sound and the country becomes politically stable in a relatively short period of time.

This leads to improvement in the economy and promoting overall progress of the country. We have seen certain nations, have failed to achieve this basic goal during the last 77 years that the country has been independent. Political leadership also cannot continue to ignore the state of governance, a fundamental weakness that the country contin-

ues to suffer from and must make serious effort to improve. Although the leadership is cognisant of the present circumstances and developments that are taking place at global and regional levels. But harmonising the responses to these forces with the interests of the country is critical. Any neglect in this regard or adoption of a wrong policy has unforeseen consequences that need to be avoided.

Moreover, as we have witnessed over the years that the role of political leadership and state institutions towards strengthening democracy has been minimal. In fact, certain policies and failings in governance have weakened democracy and there is no effort on the part of leadership towards adhering strictly to democratic norms.

It is also important to observe if there was any cultural and social impact during the period that certain party was in office from their policies and conduct. And how beneficial it was to the nation's governance and creating an environment for peace and progress. The present state of the economy demands that political leadership seriously focus on economic development and improving the lives of the people. It is a matter of serious reflection as to how long the country will remain dependent on IMF, international agen-

By Yang Yundong:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has consistently adhered to the "Shanghai Spirit" which emphasises "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilisations and pursuit of common development". It has continuously strengthened political mutual trust among member states and vigorously promoted cooperation in security, economy, culture, and other fields. The SCO has become an indispensable force in promoting regional peace and development, as well as upholding international fairness and justice.

Currently, the international situation is in turmoil, with changes unseen in a century rapidly unfolding. Humanity faces increasing instability and uncertainty. Against this backdrop, China is working to work with countries in the region to continue promoting the "Shanghai Spirit" and transform the SCO into a strategic pillar for fostering regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity.

The "Shanghai Spirit" has stood the test of time and carries profound contemporary significance. It aligns closely with the purposes of the United Nations Charter, is consistent with the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence", and resonates deeply with the development aspirations of the "Global South". "Mutual trust" forms the cornerstone of stable relations among SCO member states; "mutual benefit" ensures shared gains in economic cooperation; "equality" is reflected in every aspect of the organisation's decision-making processes; "con-

Why strategic pragmatism?

By Dr Moonis Ahmar:

Why does Pakistan lack strategic pragmatism? And how can the country deal with the serious domestic and foreign policy challenges, coming up in 2025? If there is an absence of a culture of seeking pragmatic solutions to contentious issues, those who wield power come up with superficial narratives to deal with economic, political, security, environmental and governance challenges. The result is perpetuation of the challenges.

According to AI overview, "Strategic pragmatism is a problem-solving approach that

combines analytical thinking with a focus on practicality. It can be applied to business, foreign policy, and other areas." Talking of strategic pragmatism, the military strategist, famous Prussian general and strategist Carl Von Clausewitz says, "War is a continuation of politics by other means." To Clausewitz, war is actually a way to achieve political goals.

Strategic pragmatism evolves in a society that is open-minded and visionary; where there is a culture of path-breaking reforms with reputed universities and policymakers are focused on human development. On the contrary, a retrogressive society - one that is devoid of a forward-looking approach - only tends to perpetuate the prevailing crises. State, meanwhile, is equally responsible for developing and strengthening the culture of strategic pragmatism because it has the power and resources to ensure welfare and security for the people.

However, if a state is corrupt and inefficient and tends to maximise its spending, it is not for the people, the country is doomed to fail. There are countless examples to show the leadership with strategic pragmatism is able to pull

the country out of the crises like poverty, backwardness and human insecurity. Countries like Bangladesh, India, South Korea, Malaysia and the Gulf states were able to overcome issues which impeded their progress and development. Several countries that lagged far behind, Pakistan in socio-economic realms are now progressing because of their leadership focus on human and social development instead of political witch-hunting.

Power elites are mainly seen to be indulging in corruption, nepotism and political witch-hunting. This is a result of strategic pragmatism based on a national and realistic decision-making mechanism.

Population policy

has been pushed in the background under pressure from certain fundamentalist groups. But allowing unrestricted population growth will have seriously adverse consequences for the economy and on governance.

It is not clear to what extent the Planning Commissions goals and recommendations are taken seriously and implemented faithfully.

All these developments and improvements will require, in some cases, developing a revised general curriculum in which more advanced classes require more greater access to modern and useful subjects. Developing close liaison with reputed universities from advanced countries should be a part of effort toward raising educational standards. A few years back an effort in this direction was made,

only to be fizzled out soon. Consistency and seriousness in implementation of plans is necessary.

Improving the security situation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is essential. Although the security establishment has been fully focused on it and our forces have made sacrifices to take control of the focus on economic development should be given high priority.

Pakistan's state of relations with India remains tense and with PM Modi in power the situation is unlikely to change. Pakistan has to live with this reality in the foreseeable future. To offset this, Pakistan has already taken several measures.

The risk of information technology in the present world has considerably increased and it requires serious attention to play a major role in developing industry and agriculture.

The "China Year" of the SCO will be a year of building on past achievements and forging ahead into the future. As a founding member of the SCO, China has always regarded the organisation as a key direction in its foreign policy. In July last year, President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the "Shanghai Cooperation Plus" Meeting in Astana, proposing the creation of a common home of solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighbourliness and friendship, fairness and justice that offered clear guidance for shaping the new blueprint for the development of the SCO.

As the chairing country of the SCO from 2024 to 2025, China will implement the slogan "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit, SCO on the Move", hosting a SCO summit featuring friendship, solidarity and fruitful outcomes, as well as a series of high-level institutionalised meetings. Besides, China will hold a major event, including the SCO Political Parties Forum, Forum on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development, Forum on People-to-People Friendship and the Forum on Friendship and SCO International Investment and Trade Expo, as well as flagship events including the SCO Film Festival, Television Festival, Art Festival, Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition, Chinese Calligraphy Competition, Sculpture Tournament and SCO Summer Event.

Discussions will focus on key areas such as poverty reduction, food security, public health, climate change and green development, digital economy, and connectivity. Cooperation among member states will deepen in political, security, economic and cultural fields, working together to build an even closer SCO community with a shared future, contributing "SCO wisdom" for international and regional sustainable development, and offering "SCO strength" to address global challenges.

The "Shanghai Spirit" will inject new momentum into China-Pakistan cooperation. In October last year, Pakistan successfully hosted the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the SCO in Islamabad, making significant contributions to the practice of the "Shanghai Spirit". China and Pakistan share a solid foundation for operation and vast prospects for future collaboration. As CPCC enters a new phase of high-quality development, the two countries will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation within the SCO framework. China and Pakistan will deepen strategic and practical cooperation, address risks and challenges, and enhance mutual trust, friendship and exchanges. We will strive to turn the vision of common home of solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighbourliness and friendship, fairness and justice into a tangible reality together, accelerate the building of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and bring more benefits to the peoples of the two peoples.

## Concerns raised over sudden postponement of Khan's court hearings

RAWALPINDI (INP): The recent and abrupt postponement of court hearings for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman and former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, has sparked concerns from his legal team regarding his health and safety. The hearings, which were scheduled for February 17 and 19, were unexpectedly rescheduled without explanation. The hearing of the Toshakhana II case, previously set for February 27, was pushed to February 27. Similarly,

the hearing for the GHQ attack case, originally slated for February 15, was postponed to February 26. Faisal Chaudhry, PTI's lawyer, voiced his concerns, emphasizing the unusual nature of the postponements and the growing anxiety regarding the health of both Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi. Chaudhry recalled previous instances of solitary confinement and inhumane treatment during such periods of restriction, which raised alarms about their current well-being.

Lawyer Khalid Yousaf also reported receiving phone call

from court staff informing him that the

Toshakhana II case hearing, scheduled for today in Adiala Jail, had been postponed until February 27 with no proceedings held.

This long delay in hearings, now spanning a 10-day period, has raised questions about the timing and fairness of these sudden changes. The legal community and PTI supporters are calling for transparency and immediate access to the detained leaders to ensure their safety during this uncertain period.

Yousaf also reported receiving phone call



QUETTA: Municipal Advisor Ameer Hamza Zehri meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

## Trump administration turns to US Supreme Court in bid to fire agency head

WASHINGTON (INP): President Donald Trump's administration has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in its bid to fire the head of an independent U.S. agency that protects government whistleblowers, bringing its first legal battle involving Trump's actions to the nation's highest judicial body since he took office in January.

The Justice Department asked the court to immediately lift a federal judge's February 12 order that temporarily blocked Trump's removal of Hampton Dellinger as the head of the Office of Special Counsel while litigation continues in the dispute, according to a copy of the filing reviewed by Reuters. The case has not yet been docketed by the court.

The case could offer a preview of how the Supreme Court will view Trump's aggressive moves to remake the federal government, including by removing heads of independent agencies. The court has a 6-3 conservative majority and includes three members appointed by Trump during his first term in office.

The judge's action is an "unprecedented assault on the separation of powers," Acting Solicitor General Sarah Harris said in the filing. "This court should not allow lower courts to seize executive power by dictating to the President how long he must continue employing an agency head against his will," Harris wrote.

Appointed by former President Joe Biden, Dellinger's five-year term was set to expire in 2029. He sued after receiving an email on February 7 informing him that Trump had fired him from the watchdog role, "effective immediately."

Dellinger's lawsuit said Trump exceeded his power in purporting to fire him, given that federal law permits removal only for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office."

The Special Counsel's "ability to protect the civil service and investigate alleged misconduct is needed now more than ever," Dellinger's lawsuit said. "Over the preceding three weeks, an unprecedented number of federal employees with civil service protections have been terminated without cause."

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson in Washington, D.C. issued a temporary restraining order on February 12, restoring Dellinger to his position pending a further, preliminary order. Jackson said Dellinger was likely to prevail in the suit given that the effort to fire

him without identifying any cause "plainly contravenes" the Special Counsel's job protections under federal law.

"This language expresses Congress's clear intent to ensure the independence of the Special Counsel and insulate his work from being hindered by the winds of political change," Jackson wrote in the order.

The District of Columbia U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the administration's appeal in a 2-1 decision on Saturday, saying it was premature, given that Jackson's order was only temporary.

The Special Counsel Office allows whistleblowers to make disclosures about alleged misconduct within federal agencies and investigates complaints of retaliation. It also enforces a U.S. law known as the Hatch Act that limits political participation by federal employees.

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ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Bahraini Parliamentary Delegation headed by Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Bahrain Dr. Ahmed Bin Salman Al-Musallam at Parliament House.

## No one will be allowed to challenge writ of state: said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

MUNICH (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder remains in jail or not, it has nothing to do with Pakistan's progress. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said in an informal chat on the sidelines of the Munich security conference. "The PTI's founder has a role if today's young generation is frustrated," Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto said.

He said that the military, parliament and judiciary all belong to Pakistan. "We will not allow anyone to challenge the writ of the state," PPP leader added.

He said the democracy required generations to be strengthened and flourish, he said. "PTI's founder has destroyed everything for his personal interest," Bilawal alleged.

"Now, he has pinned hopes with Sharif's and other political parties," he said that the

"We have faced challenges before, and we have successfully tackled terrorism in the past. We will not allow anyone to challenge the authority of the state," he asserted.

Bilawal also emphasised the need for technological advancement and digital transformation, expressing concern that Pakistan is not adequately preparing its youth for the IT and digital era.

"We are not ready for the digital age, nor are we equipping our children and youth for this transformation," he said. "We have to prepare our children, youth and the economy for the modern age".

"We have faced challenges before, and we have successfully tackled terrorism in the past. We will not allow anyone to challenge the authority of the state," he asserted.

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## 'New Zealand most balanced side in Champions Trophy (CT) 2025'

LAHORE (INP): Legendary Pakistan batter Mohammad Yousuf has shared his views on the teams looking strong in the Champions Trophy 2025.

The eight-team tournament will begin on February 19 as Pakistan will take on New Zealand in Karachi.

They will face off in the tournament opener days after playing in the tri-nation series which New Zealand won after thrashing Pakistan in the final.

Ahead of their Champions Trophy

2025 clash, former Pakistan batter Mohammad Yousuf has said that New Zealand looked like the most balanced team of the tournament. "It's tough to pick a favourite. It's a big tournament, and momentum can shift at any time. For me, New Zealand looks like the most balanced side. They have a well-rounded squad suited for subsequent conditions," he said in a chat with a private news outlet.

The former batter mentioned the presence of as many as three quality fast bowlers alongside good spinners

and a solid top six in batting. "Their wicketkeeper is an all-rounder, and they have two spin-bowling all-rounders as well. India also has a balanced squad," Mohammad Yousuf said. Meanwhile, he suggested that Pakistan, hosts of the Champions Trophy 2025, will have the advantage of playing at home. "Pakistan has the edge because they are familiar with the conditions. However, they must play calculated cricket throughout the tournament," Mohammad Yousuf said. The legendary batter emphasised the

importance of rotating strike in the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025, saying that Pakistan batters struggled against New Zealand spinners in the tri-nation series final. "We have played on turning wickets recently, so we need to find the gaps against spinners, rotate the strike, and minimize dot balls. In the tri-series final, against New Zealand, we struggled to dominate their spinners in the middle overs. With five fields inside the 30-yard circle, there are always scoring opportunities," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahsan Cheema, Welcoming the delegation of World Bank consisting of Executive Directors and Alternate Executive Directors.

## Shaza Fatima Khawaja calls for high-speed telecom infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has underscored the need for a robust and high-speed telecommunication infrastructure to drive digital transformation and enhance IT exports for 5G technology.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has engaged international consultants to conduct a comprehensive survey of Pakistan's current IT infrastructure and assess the country's readiness for 5G. She said the government is working on a National Fiberization Policy, through which private sector investment will also be encouraged in telecommunication infrastructure.

She emphasized that fiberization is essential for the successful implementation of 5G technology. The Minister of State expressed optimism that the government's measures would attract both domestic and international investors, ultimately enhancing Pakistan's telecommunication infrastructure and furthering the country's digital transformation goals.

Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Monday, she expressed government's commitment to using the upcoming 5G spectrum auction as a key growth initiative for the country's IT sector. She pointed out that international 5G spectrum auction models, saying that their successful implementation has been pivotal in fostering growth in other countries' IT sectors. She said the government aims to learn from these models to ensure that Pakistan can harness the full potential

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer PAFEDER Canal Division invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule as per 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fe Rs. 1500/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Works	ECost
1	Rehabilitation/Improvement of Left Side Embankment of Main PAFEDER Canal from RD:238+00toRD:26+000District SoharPur. PSDP#4351 FY:2024-25. TSE-24252646933	40,000,000
2	Rehabilitation/Improvement of Left Side Embankment of Main PAFEDER Canal from RD:281+00toRD:300+000District SoharPur. PSDP#4351 FY:2024-25. TSE-24252646933	40,000,000
3	Raising and Strengthening of Right Side Embankment of Gousspur PAFEDER Canal New Muzza Kanda District Nareebastad. PSDP#4351 FY:2024-25. TSE-24252646993	49,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Taxpayer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any Regulatory agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least S.No.1: 28,000,000 PKR, S.No.2: 28,000,000 PKR, S.No. 3: 34,300,000 PKR. Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above. Lists 65 million/Inches. Release Category And Specialized Code is CE(4)(i) (Irrigation Only). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit of Call of 2% specified above in the name of the tender signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned 1,500 PKR issuance of tender documents. From the date of publication of NIT to 07 March, 2025: 9:00 office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest on 07 March, 2025: 12:30 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned 01:00 PM Address: Executive Engineer PAFEDER Canal at Dear Murat, Jamal Phone no: 0337110533 Fax no: 033719553 Email: eng@rshmmnmg1140@gmail.com

Executive Engineer  
PAFEDER Canal Division  
Dear Murat Jamal

PRD No.3307/AT-2025  
www.apspk.gov.pk



QUETTA: President of Secretariat Officer Association Abdul Malik Kakar is being met by Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani.

# Shaanxi: A Must-Visit Destination for Chinese New Year Celebrations

**TAIYUAN, SHAANXI (XINHUA):** Shaanxi Province, once known for its coal production, has transformed into a vibrant cultural hotspot during Chinese New Year. With its colourful celebrations and rich heritage, it's now a go-to destination for tourists eager to experience China's most festive time of year.

Bell Tower Street in Taiyuan, the capital of Shaanxi, is where the magic happens. Picture iron dances, glowing lanterns, and the iconic Fu symbols (meaning "good fortune") decorating every corner. The street, which dates back to the 11th century, is steeped in tradition and alive with energy—perfect for anyone seeking an authentic New Year experience.

Pakistani student Naqvi Syed Shah Zaman Haider found himself enchanted by the "Shaanxi Travel—Black Myth: Wukong" exhibition. The display featured centuries-old cultural artefacts that brought Chinese history to life. "I fell in love with Chinese culture through the game 'Black Myth: Wukong,'" Haider shared. The game, which sold over 10 million copies in just three days last year, put Shaanxi on the map for many travellers since it features real-world locations from the province.



Xinhua News:

ported a 27% rise in bookings to Shaanxi, with local trips increasing by 33%. Taiyuan has climbed the ranks to become the fifth most popular destination in China for experiencing New Year festivities. Another Pakistani traveller, Hamal Aizaz, soaked in Chinese tea traditions at the Qianhai Xiang Tea House on Bell Tower Street. "I'm fascinated by the tea rituals," Aizaz said. "I'm taking some tea bags home as gifts so my family can experience authentic Chinese tea."

Meanwhile, Datong's 10th Lantern Festival lit up the city with eight themed zones, including "Wukong Carnival" and "New Year Essence." The dazzling light displays drew crowds from all

over. German student Stella, who visited the festival, described the lanterns as "incredibly creative and absolutely stunning." Further north in Xinzhou's ancient city, molten iron performances sent golden sparks soaring like shooting stars. Cultural exhibitions celebrating traditional Chinese heritage added even more magic to the festive atmosphere.

Shaanxi's mix of ancient traditions and modern celebrations has made it a top travel destination for Chinese New Year. From lively markets to cultural exhibitions and iconic street festivals, Shaanxi offers a little something for everyone—making it the perfect place to ring in the New Year.

## Fawad Ch. criticizes Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political committee

**JHELUM (INP):** Former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry has launched a scathing critique of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political committee, calling it a "two-taka" entity and accusing its members of failing to take a stand on the treatment of PTI founder Imran Khan while in jail.

In a statement posted on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Chaudhry condemned the committee's silence on Khan's conditions, while highlighting that many members of the committee had never faced jail time themselves.

Chaudhry went further, accusing the committee of mismanaging millions of rupees in funding, which had been received in the name of the PTI founder and its workers. "These people have consumed millions in funding and refuse to account for it," Chaudhry said, adding that it was crucial to demand

accountability from those whose political worth he described as being "worth two takas."

The remarks came after a public spat between Fawad Chaudhry and PTI leader Barister Shoaib Shaheen, which escalated into a heated exchange.

The PTI's political committee responded to the clash, calling the verbal altercation not just an insult to Shaheen, but also to the party itself.

The committee reiterated its full support for Shoaib Shaheen, stating that Chaudhry was no longer authorized to represent PTI on any platform. The statement accused Chaudhry of distancing himself from the party's identity under the instructions of PTI's founding chairman and criticized his tendency to use derogatory language in political disputes. The feud between Chaudhry and Shaheen came to

a head outside Gate No. 5 of Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, where a verbal altercation quickly escalated into a physical confrontation.

Chaudhry reportedly slapped Shaheen, causing the latter to fall and injure his arm. Both leaders exchanged abusive language before the jail staff intervened and separated the two. Following the altercation, Fawad Chaudhry proceeded to enter Adiala Jail.

In response to the incident, the PTI political committee issued a statement condemning Chaudhry's behavior, labeling it as "hateful" and "criminal." They reiterated their support for Shoaib Shaheen, praising his commitment to tolerance in the face of provocation.

This latest public conflict highlights the ongoing divisions within PTI, with Chaudhry's remarks further escalating tensions among party members.

## Minister calls upon UN agencies to fulfill commitment of repatriating Afghan refugees

**KARACHI (INP):** Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions Amir Muqam on Sunday called upon the United Nations (UN) agencies to fulfill their commitment of repatriating Afghan refugees or shifting them to another country as well as resolving the issues of countries hosted them.

While addressing the Afghan refugees during his visit to Commissionerate Afghan Refugees Sindh here, he said that the people of third world countries were given shelter in Pakistan, and it was promised that they would be shifted to another country. He said that they must be shifted on

war-footing basis.

He warned that those Afghans, who were living illegally in the country would have to leave Pakistan. The Federal Minister Amir Muqam said that around 3 million Afghans had been hosted in the country for many years. He said, "It is a fact that you will have to go."

He said that all had to play their role to send Afghan refugees back to their country with respect and dignity.

Muqam said that Pakistan was being sent corpse. He said that the Afghan government should realize the situation. He said that the resources should be

used in favour of both the countries. He also urged the Afghan refugees to speak up against the use of Afghan land for Pakistan. He further said that they were also your (Afghan refugees) enemies, who were making things worse.

The minister said, "Peace is in favour of Pakistan and Afghanistan." While re-urging the Afghan refugees, he asked them to keep a vigil on anti-state and anti-Pakistan elements. Amir Muqam said that the present federal government struggled and saved the country from becoming default. He said that the government along with coalition partners was trying to pull the country out of challenges.

## Jl files petition on deaths by heavy traffic in Karachi

**KARACHI (INP):** Jamaat-e-Islami has filed petition in Sindh High Court (SHC) seeking court order about monitoring of heavy traffic in Karachi.

Jl Karachi's Ameer Mumam Zafar, opposition leader in KMC Satiuddin advocate and Muhammad Farooq MPA in their petition pleaded to the high court to bound the Sindh government, police department and the KMC to monitor heavy traffic in the metropolis.

Chief Secretary Sindh, Secretary Transport and Mass Transit, and IG Police Sindh have been

made respondents in the petition. Usman Farooq Advocate pleaded that the negligence of authorities, resulting in large number of deaths of citizens by heavy vehicles.

Petitioners have requested for strict implementation on the notification about entry of the heavy traffic in city from 10:00 in night to 6:00 in the morning.

A permanent system should be devised for monitoring and management of the heavy traffic in city," petition suggested. The KMC should be ordered to take steps for improvement and

maintenance of the city's roads. Petitioners requested that details of the use of funds allocated for carpeting of roads should be summoned and an audit of the funds spent on roads should be conducted.

The petitioners also sought the court to fix compensation for the citizens died or injured in accidents.

Petitioners pleaded for the court's order to enforce the Amir Umer Act adding that last year 773 citizens lost their lives and over 2000 injured in road accidents in Karachi.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan is talking to the media regarding immunization of children.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of World Bank Executive Directors called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Afridi reconstitutes SC's administrative committees

**ISLAMABAD, Feb 17 (INP):** Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi on Monday reconstituted different administrative committees of the Supreme Court (SC), says in media reports. Justice Musarrat Hilali was made the in-charge judge of anti-terrorism courts (ATCs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) while Justice Malik Shahzad and Justice Hashim Kakar were made the in-charge judges of ATCs of Punjab and Balochistan, respectively.

Similarly, Justice Salahuddin Panhwar was made the in-charge judge of ATCs of Sindh, Justice Aamer Farooq of ATCs in Islamabad, while Justice Jamal Mandokhel was made the head of the Supreme Court's (SC) Building Committee.

Justice Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Aamer Farooq will be the members of the committee. The CJP will head the IT committee himself, while other members are Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb. Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan was made the in-charge of the Research Center Committee, while Justice Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Aamer Farooq will be its members. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar will head the Law Clerk Programme Committee, while Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb will be its member. Likewise, five judges were nominated to hear chamber ap-

## Joint session tomorrow, 18th February of the Parliament postponed indefinitely

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** The joint session of the Parliament, which was scheduled for tomorrow, 18th February, has been postponed indefinitely. A notification regarding the postponement has been issued. In a whirlwind joint session of the Parliament, the government, seizing the opportunity, swiftly moved to pass key legislation, including the Trade Regulations Amendment Bill 2024 and the National Institute of Technology Establishment Bill. All the bills were presented in the joint session due to being returned from the Presidency.

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and throwing them in the House Bill, and Senator Manzoor Kakar presented the National Excellence Institute Bill, both of which were approved amid the chaos. The Export Control Act Amendment Bill was also passed without significant debate.

The session, which lasted a mere 18 minutes, saw eight bills passed, with four approved and the rest postponed until the next session on February 12.

The opposition, led by PTI members, resorted to loud protests, tearing copies of the agenda

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, saw the postponement of several other bills, including the National Commission for Human Rights Amendment Bill, the NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology Multan Bill, the National Skills University Bill, and the Federal Urdu University Amendment Bill. These will be reconsidered in the next joint session scheduled for February 12.

## Foreign investment witnessing substantial increase: Jam Kamal

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan says foreign investment in the country is witnessing a substantial increase, which reflects economic stability. Addressing a pre-budget seminar in Islamabad on Monday, he expressed the government's commitment to addressing the challenges, faced by industries.

The Minister said inflation is decreasing while policy rate

in the country has also dropped due to prudent policies of the government. He said the government is engaged with different relevant sectors and consultations are underway to prepare the budget for the next fiscal year. Jam Kamal also stressed the crucial role of the National Export Development Board in tackling industrial issues and highlighted the importance of discussions on tariff-related



ISLAMABAD: Strengthening economic ties: Pakistan-Australia Business Council delegation calls on Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan.

## Sharjeel Memon slams Punjab over Sehwan tragedy, Azma Bukhari strikes back

**KARACHI (INP):** Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has accused the Punjab government of attempting to politicise the Sehwan accident.

Addressing a pre-budget seminar in Islamabad on Monday, he expressed the government's commitment to addressing the challenges, faced by industries.

the Minister said inflation is decreasing while policy rate

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, he stated that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has ruled at the federal level more than any other party, and if roads remain incomplete, it is due to their incompetence.

Addressing road safety concerns, he asserted that road construction in Sehwan was the federal government's responsibility and urged them to either fulfill this duty or officially hand it over to Sindh.

He noted that a transparent tariff structure is key to encourage foreign investment. He acknowledged the private sector's significant role in driving economic growth. The Commerce Minister reaffirmed the government's determination to improve ease of doing business, addressing concerns such as tax regimes, sales tax issues, and capital mechanisms.

Sharjeel Memon pointed out that Sindh's GDP is Rs. 180 billion, which could be used to improve road infrastructure, but these funds remain frozen in the Supreme Court. He stated that while all of Pakistan's traffic uses

the government's responsibility and urged them to either fulfill this duty or officially hand it over to Sindh.

She asserted that while Punjab completed projects within a year, Sindh has been struggling with issues such as dysfunctional schools and inadequate transport for years.

She also took a jibe at Sindh's governance, stating that a party that has failed to clean Karachi's garbage in 16 years should not lecture others. Concluding her remarks, she invited Sharjeel Memon to visit Lahore 17th ever wished to see clean streets and well-maintained infrastructure.

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